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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/641,023	08/17/2000	Yoram Cedar	HARI.158US0	4831

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EXAMINER

AUVE, GLENN ALLEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2181

9

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/641,023

Applicant(s)

CEDAR ET AL.

Examiner

Glenn A. Auve

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4,6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group I, claims 1-20 in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. The nonelected claims should be canceled. At this point their status is withdrawn as being direct to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 1-12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is rejected because it is not clear whether "when connected to all of the plurality of sockets" refers to the card or the host.

Claim 1 is also rejected based on lack of positive antecedent basis of "the electronic circuit cards" on lines 7-8 and "the cards" on lines 10-11. The claim only recites that cards are connectable and insertable into the sockets, but no cards are actually positively recited.

Claims 2-4 are rejected because they depend on claim 1.

Claim 2 is also rejected based on lack of positive antecedent basis of "the electronic circuit cards" on line 2, and "the cards inserted into the plurality of sockets" on lines 5-6.

Claim 4 is also rejected based on lack of positive antecedent basis of "the electronic circuit cards" on lines 1-2.

Claim 5 is rejected based on lack of positive antecedent basis of "the individual one inserted card" on line 11.

Claims 6-9 are rejected because they depend on claim 5.

Claim 6 is also rejected based on lack of positive antecedent basis of "said at least one plurality of sockets" on line 2.

Claim 10 is rejected based on lack of positive antecedent basis of "the command/response pin" on lines 13 and 14.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected because they depend on claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

6. Claims 1,4,10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

As per claim 1, Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) shows a host a plurality of sockets in which cards are insertable, and transferring data between the host and a card addressed over a command circuit when the host is connected to all of the sockets, and normally transferring control operations of the cards from the host to a card when connected to all of the sockets except when unique addresses of individual cards are being defined by communication between the host and the cards one at a time over the command circuit which is connected to the sockets one at a time (fig. 3 and pages 9-10, wherein the cards have their unique addresses assigned one at a time to their relative card address registers). AAPA shows all of the elements

recited in claim 1. The procedure for assigning addresses to the cards is also described in the multimedia card specification.

As for claim 4, the argument for claim 1 applies. AAPA also shows that the cards include re-writeable non-volatile memory in which transferred data are stored (pages 9-10). AAPA shows all of the elements recited in claim 4.

As per claim 10, AAPA shows encapsulated memory cards that include programmable non-volatile memory and a controller, electrical contacts on the card at least one for carrying data, one for commands and responses, and one for a clock signal, and a plurality of registers that are programmable, including a programmable address register, a plurality of sockets that receive the cards with pins corresponding to those on the cards, and a host device connected to the data, command, and clock lines and to normally simultaneously send operating commands to the cards over the individual command/response lines, except when distinct addresses in the address registers are being confirmed through the command/response lines one at a time (fig. 3 and pages 9-10, wherein the cards have their unique addresses assigned one at a time to their relative card address registers). AAPA shows all of the elements recited in claim 10. The procedure for assigning addresses to the cards is also described in the multimedia card specification.

As per claim 13, AAPA shows a plurality of memory cards that include programmable non-volatile memory and electrical contacts on the card at least one for carrying data, one for commands and responses, and one for a clock signal, and a plurality of registers that are programmable, including a programmable address register, a plurality of sockets that receive the cards with pins corresponding to those on the cards, and a host device connected to the data, command, and clock lines with the command line selectively connectable to any one or all of the card sockets, the cards including an address register which is programmed with a unique

value confirmed by the host through the command line one card at a time, and the host sending additional commands to and receiving additional responses from an individual one of the cards when all of the sockets are connected (fig. 3 and pages 9-10, wherein the cards have their unique addresses assigned one at a time to their relative card address registers). AAPA shows all of the elements recited in claim 13. The procedure for assigning addresses to the cards is also described in the multimedia card specification.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Jones reference cited and not applied shows a prior art system that accepts a variety of memory cards including MMC and SD, however it does not show all of the claimed elements. The cited SD card specification has a copyright date which is after the application's filing date.

8. Claims 2,3,11, and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 2,5,14, and 16 include the limitation of storing within the cards a characteristic of a number of the data contacts through which data are transferred in parallel. Such a limitation is not present in the prior art and would not have been obvious.

Claim 11 includes the limitation that the cards have two or more data lines and individually provide a response of the number of contacts that carry data. Such a limitation is not present in the prior art and would not have been obvious.

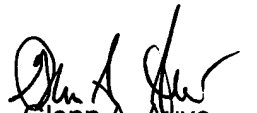
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Claim 20 includes the limitation of a random number generator that writes the card address into the register field in combination with the other claim limitations. This combination is not present in the prior art and would not have been obvious.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Glenn A. Auve whose telephone number is (703) 305-9638. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:00 AM-5:30 PM, every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


Glenn A. Auve
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2181

gaa
April 4, 2003